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Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested. The foregoing amendments are responsive to the August 26, 2004 Office Action. Applicants respectfully request entry of the requested amendments and reconsideration of the application in view of the following comments.

Response to the Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C § 103

Claims 1-5, 7-15, 17-25 and 27-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,182,212 issued to Atkins et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,899,136 issued to Beard et al. and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,065,262 issued to Blackborow et al.. The rejection asserts that Atkins allegedly teaches each element of the claims except for the emulation of one user environment on the second machine, which is allegedly taught by Beard and Blackborow. Claims 6, 16, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Atkins in view of Beard, in further view of Blackborow, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,732,266 issued to Moore et al. The rejection asserts that Atkins/Beard/Blackborow allegedly teaches each element of the claims except for automatic launching, which is allegedly taught Moore. Applicants cancel Claims 1-30 herein and add new Claims 31-33. The new Claims 31-33 are presented to more clearly defined the claimed subject matter.

The claims are directed a method of emulating a first operating environment on a second computer, and restoring the second operating environment upon termination of the emulation. None of the cited art teaches or suggests use of removable media to temporarily modify an operating environment of a second computer to emulate that of a first computer. Atkins teaches copying environmental variables onto removable media to permanently modify the operating system of a second computer. There is no suggestion of emulation of any type in Atkins. Although Beard uses the term "emulation," the function taught in Beard is completely different than that disclosed and claimed in the present invention. In Beard, a second computer is used to "emulate" a first computer by opening a window with the first computers operating environment displayed. However, Beard is only teaching controlling a first machine through the operating environment of a second machine, not true emulation as is taught in the present invention. Nothing in Beard teaches the operating of the second machine to be independent of the first machine during emulation. In newly added Claim 31, the requirement is included where the "second machine emulates the first operating environment of the first machine independent of the operation of the first machine." Thus, under the present claims, the second machine emulates the operating environment of the first machine regardless of the state of the first machine (i.e. the second machine is not connected in any way to the first machine, the first machine can be turned off, in a different location, destroyed, etc.). Only the present invention teaches an truly independent emulation between two machines. Blackborow does not teach or suggest this independent emulation.

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In view of the foregoing distinctions, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 31 is patentably distinguished over the cited art. Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 31 is in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request allowance of Claim 31.

Claims 32-33 depend directly from Claim 31. Each dependent claim further defines the independent claim from which it depends. In view of the foregoing remarks regarding Claim 31, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 32-33 are likewise in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request allowance of dependent Claims 32-33.

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Summary

In view of the above amendments and remarks, all of the claims should be in condition for allowance. A formal notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

No fees are believed due with the filing of this response. However, if Applicants are in error, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to debit Applicant's Deposit Account (No. 50-2733) any fees that are currently due, as well as any fees due during the pendency of this application.

Please direct all future communications with regard to this application to the following address:

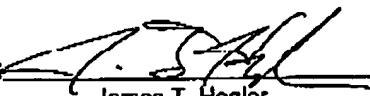
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Certificate of Facsimile

I hereby certify that this correspondence (and any referred to as attached) is being sent via facsimile to 703-872-9306 to the Commissioner for Patents on the date indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 26, 2004

By: 
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